



Donald L. Plusquellic
Mayor

Resources for Responding to Crimes and Nuisances

Not every community problem can be solved by an arrest by the police.

- Some conduct is a nuisance or an annoyance without being a crime under the laws of the State or City.
- Some crimes occur, but there is no evidence of the identity of the offender, so an arrest cannot be made.
- Some criminal activity, like prostitution and illegal drug sales, require special investigations to make an arrest.

This is a guide to resources that may help when an arrest is not the answer.

Protection Orders

Judges have the authority to issue Protection Orders in defined circumstances where a person has been victimized by another or is reasonably fearful of another. Police and prosecutors cannot issue protection orders.

- When an arrest is made for certain offenses of violence, the assigned Judge can issue a Temporary Protection Order or a Criminal Protection Order against the defendant for the victim during the time the case is pending. The Protection Order terminates when the case is closed.
- When a family member threatens or harms another family member, the victim may petition the Domestic Relations Court for a Domestic Violence Civil Protection Order that can stay in place for 5 years. **The Battered Women's Shelter** and **Victim Assistance Program** may assist the victim with obtaining the petition forms. A family member who has a Temporary Protection Order may also apply for a Civil Protection Order.
- When a non-family member commits a sexually oriented offense or repeatedly threatens another, the victim can petition the Common Pleas Court for a Stalking or Sexually Oriented Offense Protection Order. The **Victim Assistance Program** may assist the victim with obtaining the petition forms.

Violation of a Protection Order is grounds for arrest of the offender, whether or not any other crime is committed. A Restraining Order, issued in a divorce or civil action, differs from a Protection Order and a violation of a Restraining Order is not a criminal offense like violation of a Protection Order.

Akron City Prosecutor's Office

Max Rothal, *Law Director*

Douglas Powley, *Chief City Prosecutor*

Office: 330-375-2730

Prosecutor's Office

The Akron Prosecutor's Office takes complaints in Room 203 of the Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center 217 S. High St. between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment is not necessary.

A complaining party should report a crime to the police for an investigation before going to see the Prosecutor. Police do not refer victims to the Prosecutor's Office to sign criminal charges.

The Prosecutor's Office will review the complaint and may —

- Refer the victim to another resource such as Small Claims Court, housing rights advocates, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission or other agencies; **OR**
- Send a warning letter advising the accused of the complaint and further like conduct may be prosecuted. For example, this may help where a victim wants no contact from another and Telephone Harassment or Trespass charges may be filed, if the offender persists in the unwanted contact; **OR**
- If warranted, will set a hearing to hear both sides of the situation and determine if criminal charges are appropriate.

The Prosecutor is not staffed or equipped to investigate an offense outside the office and cannot require an accused party to appear for a hearing.

Loud Music

Loud music complaints can be made to the Akron Police. The responding police officer may warn the offender to turn down the music. The police may charge a violation depending on the circumstances. After 9:00 p.m., if the noise can be heard more than 80 feet from the property of origin or if the music is coming from a car on the public street and can be heard more than 100 feet away at any time of day, the police may cite the offender.

If the noise stopped before the police arrived, neighbors may still initiate a complaint, but may have to give testimony in court that the noise was unreasonable. It is preferred that there be an independent corroborating witness to the complaining party's testimony, as the Judge must be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the noise was unreasonable.

Domestic Violence

If you are a victim of domestic violence, police will respond with the primary purpose of protecting persons from harm. If there is reasonable cause to believe that domestic violence has occurred, the police will arrest the offender. The offender will likely be able to get out of jail while the case is still pending. The victim may obtain a protection order from the Judge assigned to the case and the offender will not be permitted to have contact with the victim while the case is pending.

A domestic violence victim may consult with an advocate from **Battered Women's Shelter** at 330-374-1111 or the **Victim Assistance Program** at 330-376-0040 to obtain information about protection orders, support groups, the criminal justice system – to develop a safety plan – and to obtain other assistance. **The Battered Women's Shelter** can provide safe shelter to a victim and the children .

The Domestic Relations Court may issue a Civil Protection Order which can be effective for 5 years and may provide for child support and custody and visitation orders.

Drug/Prostitution Activity

If you observe activity in your neighborhood, that looks like illegal drug activity, such as frequent short visits to a house or a person loitering on the street and stopping cars, you may give that information to the **Police Narcotics Unit** at 330-375-2602 and they will use the information to aid in their investigations.

If you observe activity that appears to be prostitution, you may report the information to the **Police Vice Unit** at 330-375-2677 and they will use the information to target their enforcement efforts. Anonymous tips may be made to Akron Police on the web site – www.ci.akron.oh.us/ASP/tip.html.

Dog/Animal Complaints

Problems with barking dogs, dogs or cats running loose, dog bites and similar complaints are handled by the City of Akron Animal Wardens. Wardens will investigate the barking dog complaint and attempt to resolve the problem by contacting the owner.

To charge a person with a barking dog violation, there has to be evidence that the barking unreasonably annoyed the neighbors. The warden will ask if there is more than one neighbor complaining about the barking. Animal Wardens can be accessed by dialing **3-1-1** for the **City of Akron Contact Center** between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Cell phone users – dial 330-375-2311.

Parking Violations

Complaints about vehicles parked illegally on the street or in residential yards in front of the building set back line or commercial trucks parked at residences can be made to the **Akron Police Traffic Bureau** at 330-375-2506 during business hours or by calling 330-375-2181.

Property Violations

Properties that have broken windows, missing siding, trash in the yard, junk vehicles, high weeds and the like can be reported by dialing 3-1-1 for the **City of Akron Contact Center**. Cell phone users dial 330-375-2311. The complaint will be given to the appropriate city department.

Zoning Violations

Complaints about commercial business in a residential area, a semi-tractor or more than five cars at a home, encroachments on set back requirements and other zoning complaints can be reported to the Zoning Division at 330-375-2350 or dialing 311 for the City of **Akron Contact Center**. Cell phone users – dial 330-375-2311.

Directory

Akron Police	
Emergency	9-1-1
Police non-emergency	330-375-2181
Police Narcotics	330-375-2602
Police Vice	330-375-2677
Police Traffic	330-375-2506
Anonymous Tips	www. ci.akron.oh.us/ASP/tip.html
Akron Contact Center	
Cell phone users	330-375-2311
Akron Prosecutor	
Room 203, Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center, 217 S. High Street	
Akron Clerk of Courts	
330-375-2570	
Battered Women's Shelter	330-374-1111
Victim Assistance Program	330-376-0040